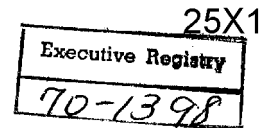




CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

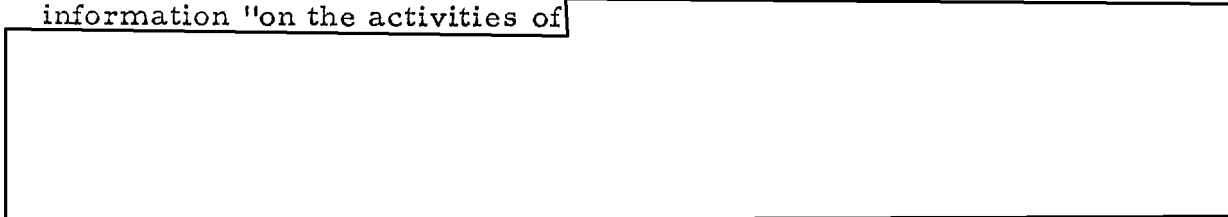


19 March 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Henry A. Kissinger  
Assistant to the President for  
National Security Affairs

SUBJECT : October - November 1968 Vietnam  
Intelligence Data

1. This memorandum, with its attachments, constitutes our response to two requests from your office, both related to the report being prepared for the President on the availability of materials bearing on the November 1968 halt of the bombing of North Vietnam. One request asked us to check our files for "memoranda, reports or other pertinent information" and to provide a brief descriptive list. The other request was more narrowly focused on the need for detailed information "on the activities of"



2. Bombing Studies. Since the fall of 1965, in response to explicit requests from both Mr. McNamara and Mr. Clifford during their respective tenures as Secretary of Defense, this Agency prepared a series of special studies on the bombing of North Vietnam. DIA was also asked to prepare similar studies from time to time during the period 1965-1968. In August 1966, DIA and CIA collaborated on the joint preparation and publication of a study series, each issue of which was entitled, "An Appraisal of the Bombing of North Vietnam." This whole series is generally pertinent to your request, particularly the last number therein (S-3378/AP-4A) which covered the period 1 July to 31 October 1968. At Secretary Clifford's request, this Agency also prepared a related, but independent, Intelligence Memorandum entitled,

25X1 "An Assessment of the ROLLING THUNDER Program through June 1968"  
[redacted] This was published in October 1968 and, hence, was used as one input to the high level discussions relating to the cessation of the bombing.

3. "Tuesday Lunch" Studies. In addition to the memoranda just described, the Agency also did another series of papers in response to an explicit request from President Johnson relayed through Mr. Walt Rostow. These memoranda were prepared to support the conferences President Johnson convened at approximately weekly intervals, which were known as the "Tuesday Lunch," and which were attended by President Johnson, Mr. Rusk, Mr. McNamara or Mr. Clifford (i.e., the Secretary of Defense), General Wheeler, Mr. Christian, Mr. Rostow, Mr. Tom Johnson and myself. (This group's meetings were not always held on Tuesday and were often not held at lunch.) There were seven memoranda in this series prepared and circulated at "Tuesday Lunches" during the period covered by your request. A list of these memoranda giving their exact titles and document numbers is appended hereto as Attachment 1.

4. The "Freeze" and Its Consequences. The circulation of intelligence reports and preparation of analytic studies during the period covered by your request on matters related thereto was complicated by a unique set of restrictions. When Washington received the Paris delegation's report of the 11 October 1968 private meeting of Messrs. Harriman and Vance with Le Duc Tho and Xuan Thuy (Paris 22253, 11 October 1968), President Johnson personally imposed what working levels in the intelligence community came to call the "freeze." Access to traffic dealing with matters related to the status of negotiations -- and this included all discussion of topics germane to the bombing halt -- was rigidly circumscribed. The President personally had to approve every reader of this material, and the Washington readership was virtually limited to the actual participants in the "Tuesday Lunches." No analyst or even senior working level personnel had access to the relevant material. No one in the Agency saw it except myself and even I read the documents down at the White House.

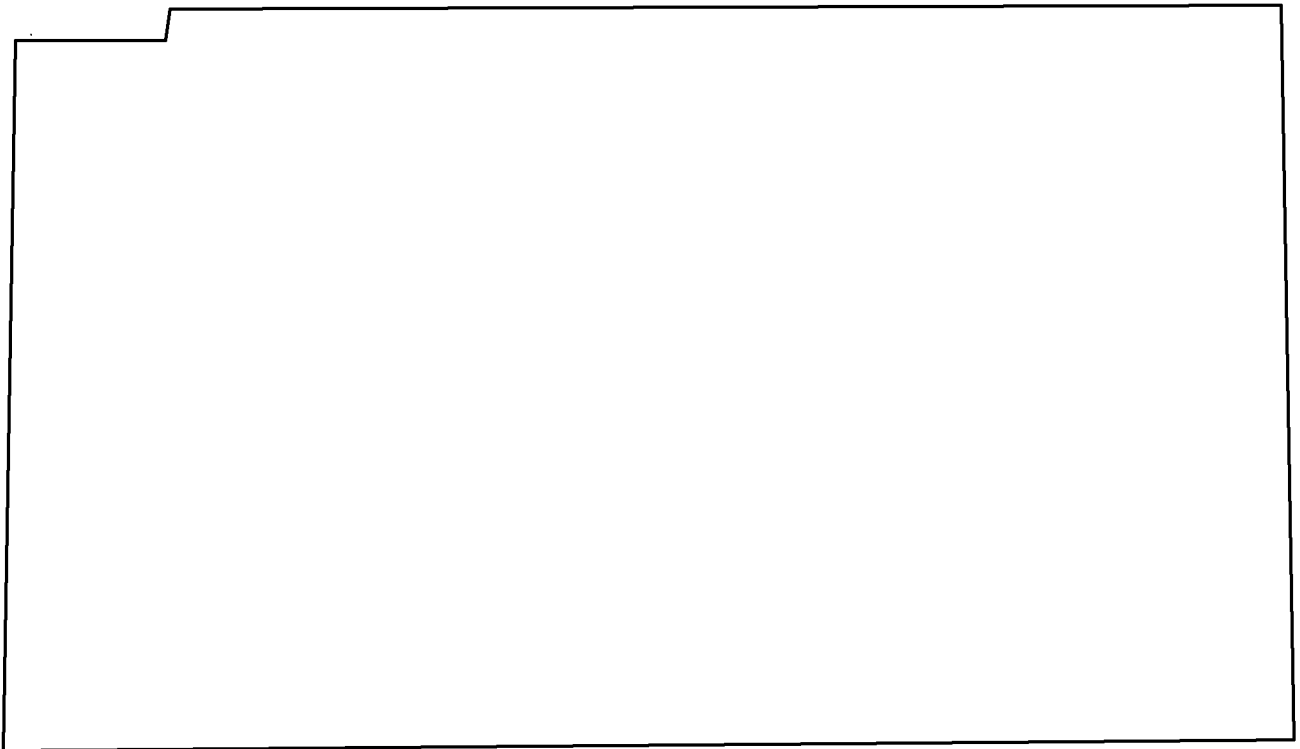
5. Because of these restrictions, no intelligence analyses or studies were prepared on topics specifically related to the bombing halt discussions at the time these discussions were taking place in late October of 1968.

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6. In compliance with President Johnson's explicit instructions, all of the field intelligence on matters germane to the subject of your request was shortstopped in my office. None of it was disseminated to Washington community customers. Such disseminations as were made were handled via special memoranda sent on an EYES ONLY basis to Secretary Rusk and Mr. Rostow. For this reason, we cannot give you a list of [redacted] during October of 1968 because there were none until the "freeze" ended on 1 November.

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8. Documents. The titles, dates and document numbers of the bombing assessment studies pertinent to your request are given in paragraph 2 above. In Attachment 2 of this memorandum we have listed the dates and titles of the reports or memoranda [redacted] we sent to the White House during the period in question via the special procedure outlined above in paragraph 6. In Attachment 3, we have listed the dates and titles of pertinent reports or memoranda [redacted] sent via the same procedure during the same period. In Attachment 4, we have listed a representative sampling of pertinent disseminations distributed in more normal fashion after the "freeze" ended on 1 November 1968. [redacted]

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SECRET/ [REDACTED]

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9. I hope this memorandum and its attachments are helpful in meeting your needs.

*/s/ Richard Helms*

Richard Helms  
Director

Attachments

Attachment 1 - "Tuesday Lunch" Studies

Attachment 2 - [REDACTED]

Attachment 3 - [REDACTED]

Attachment 4 - [REDACTED] - Post 1 November

O/DCI/SAVA:GACarver/mee 19Mar70

Distribution

Orig - Addressee w/atts

1 - DDCI/ER w/atts

1 - DDP w/atts

1 - C/FE w/atts

3 - SAVA

1- WH Special Projects

1 - GAC Chrono ✓

1 - VAS Chrono

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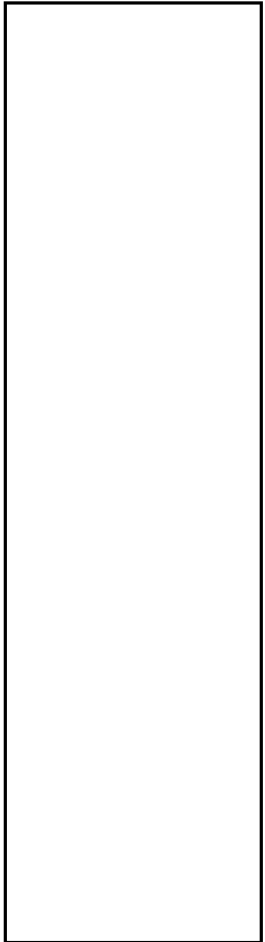
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Attachment 1

"TUESDAY LUNCH" STUDIES

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Title</u>
1 October 1968	Recent Activities in North Vietnam (23-29 September 1968)
8 October 1968	Recent Activities in North Vietnam South of the 20th Parallel (30 September-6 October 1968)
October 1968	Recent Activities in North Vietnam (7-13 October 1968)
22 October 1968	Recent Activities in North Vietnam South of the 20th Parallel (14-20 October 1968)
October 1968	Recent Activities in North Vietnam (21-27 October 1968)
November 1968	Recent Activities in North Vietnam South of the 20th Parallel (28 October-3 November 1968)
November 1968	Recent Activities in North Vietnam (4-10 November 1968)



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